

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 12, line 1---in the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, please make the following change

Part of the reformed gas 26, which is an exhaust gas from the CO shift converter 4, is supplied to the desulfurizer 2 as the recycled reformed gas 50 as described above, and the ~~remainder~~ remainder thereof is supplied, as the reformed gas 52, to the CO selective oxidizer 5 loaded with a precious metal catalyst, such as platinum-based catalyst or ruthenium-based catalyst, serving as a CO selective oxidizing catalyst. This is intended to reduce the CO concentration of the reformed gas 52 to about 10 ppm, because a reformed gas having a CO concentration of 100 ppm or higher supplied to the anode 6 causes deterioration of the electrode catalyst. In addition, the air 33 which is some of the air 18 taken in by the air supply blower 13 is supplied to the CO selective oxidizer 5. The CO selective oxidizer 5 causes carbon monoxide contained in the reformed gas 52 to react with oxygen in the air 33 to convert carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide through a CO selective oxidizing reaction expressed by the following equation (3), which is an exothermic reaction, thereby reducing the CO concentration of the reformed gas 52 to about 10 ppm.

(Co selective oxidizing reaction of carbon monoxide)



The amount of the supplied air 33 is set to a value appropriate to the amount of the supplied natural gas 45 by controlling the degree of opening of the flow control valve 11 based on a preset relationship between the degree of opening of the flow control valve 37 (i.e. the amount of the supplied natural gas 45) and the degree of opening of the flow control valve 11 (i.e. the amount of the supplied air 33).